

RECEIVED

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF  
PAT MILLER

2004 DEC 29 PM 2:27 DEC 29 2004

RE: 2004 Docket #'s 04-00166 and 04-00211

T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Dear Sir or Madame:

The Tennessee Regulatory Authority Docket 04-00166 and 04-00211, if approved could allow higher rates for calls from inmates at Tennessee jails and prisons. I am urging you to support the children and families of prisoners and vote against any increases in cost and possible decreases in the time length of calls from state or local penal institution.

Families of Tennessee prisoners are the forgotten victims of crime. Innocent of any wrong doing, they too often suffer in silence. It is therefore very important that elected and appointed government officials protect our interests. Our families are primarily responsible for telephone and many other expenditures of our incarcerated loved ones. The proposed changes would result in drastic telephone rate increases that we cannot afford. We also cannot afford to stop improving our family relationships through regular-30 minute telephone calls. Healthy family bonds during imprisonment help to reduce repeated incarceration and ultimately make our communities safer for all Tennessee families. To shorten the length of the calls would be devastating to family bonds. Affordable local and long distance calls are especially critical for families who are not physically or financially able to visit prisons that are often in remote locations where public transportation is not available and over night accommodations and meals would drive up the cost. I am also concerned that the current telephone provider, Global Tel-Link lacks accountability to its customers. We insist that improved customer service and better billing service are required of all telephone service providers to prison and jails of Tennessee.

As a concerned citizen, I will be watching these issues very closely. I earnestly hope you will support families of Tennessee's prisoners and not the interest of big business.

Sincerely,

Michelle Barker  
1930 Riverview Cn  
Sevierville, TN 37862

December 27, 2004

RE: 2004 Docket # 04-00166  
Docket #04-00211

Received  
RON JONES  
RECEIVED  
DEC 29 2004  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority

T.R.A. DOCKET ROOM

Dear Ron Jones,

The Tennessee Regulatory Authority Docket 04-00166 and 04-00211, if approved, could allow higher rates for calls from inmates at Tennessee jails and prisons. I am urging you to support the children and families of prisoners and vote against any increases in cost and any possible decreases in the time length of calls from a state or local penal institution.

Families of Tennessee prisoners are the forgotten victims of crime. Too often they suffer in silence. It is therefore very important that elected and appointed government officials protect our interests. Our families are responsible for any and all telephone expenses among other high expenses, including taxes paid to support the incarceration of a loved one.

The proposed changes would result in drastic telephone rate increases that we cannot afford, therefore causing the lines of communication to be alot less or even non existent. We cannot afford to stop improving our family relationships through regular 30 minute telephone conversations.

Healthy family bonds during imprisonment in some cases are dependent solely on ground line communication. This is especially true for those that live hours away and are not physically or financially able to make the long journey for visitation. To shorten the length of calls would be devastating to family bonds.

Affordable local and long distance calls are especially critical to families with children. To shorten the length of talk time and increase the price of a single call could and would decrease or stop conversations from taking place between fathers/mothers with their children.

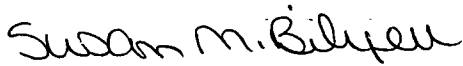
Children and families should continue to stay in contact with the parent that is missing from their home and basically their lives due to incarceration. This can also be said for maintaining a healthy marriage as best as possible.

As for me personally, my fiancée is currently incarcerated. He is 3 hours away from home. In addition to my financial responsibilities in the real world, I also have the responsibility of high long distance collect calls, high cost of vending machine food during visits, the cost of gas for monthly visitations, and for sending money for his personal items and packages that he needs. This very easily costs me \$300.00 extra per month.

As you can see, to stay in contact with a loved one that is incarcerated is very expensive. The families are already getting hit twice. Our tax dollars help fund the prisons in order to take care of all inmates, and we have the burden of the expense to stay in contact with and visit with our loved ones. Now, with these new Dockets, we will have to pay even more. For the single parents, this could be a financial strain more than it already is and almost impossible to continue with phone contact.

As a concerned citizen, I urge you to strongly consider the impact your decision on the above dockets will have on children, families, friends, and community-based organizations that promote healthy family bonds with inmates. Please vote **NO** to higher costs and shorter calls from a jail or prison in Tennessee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan M. Bilyeu".

Susan M. Bilyeu  
1004 Perry Rd.,  
Chapmansboro, Tn. 37035